

In the specification:

Page 1, line 3, amend as follows:

~~Background Information~~

CROSS-REFERENCE TO A RELATED APPLICATION

The invention described and claimed hereinbelow is also described in German Patent Application DE 103 24 621.5 filed on May 28, 2003. This German Patent Application, provides the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, line 25, amend as follows:

~~Advantages of the invention~~

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved electrical machine.

In keeping with these objects, one feature of the present invention resides, briefly stated, in an electrical machine, comprising a rotatably supported rotor; at least one bearing for supporting said rotor in a hub; a spring element having an axially-acting spring force which acts on said bearing and also bearing against said hub with spring force, said spring element being configured as a disk spring functionable back and forth across a flat position of said spring element, said spring element, in an outer region, bearing against an outer ring of said bearing and, in an inner region against a hub projection, said hub projection being substantially annular in shape and having a conical spring-support surface that declines outwardly.

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 1-2 as follows:

The electrical machine according to the present invention ~~with the features of the main claim~~ has the advantage that a large range of spring-force characteristics with a relatively flat increase in force is attainable. This means that the spring force and, as a result, the axial force load on the bearing may increase slightly across the range of the intended compression of the spring

element. As a result, the service life that can be expected of this bearing is markedly increased.

Page 2, delete the paragraph in lines 4-5 in its entirety.

Page 3, line 8, amend the heading as follows:

Drawing

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 4, line 3, amend the heading as follows:

Description

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 as follows:

A schematic view of spring element 47 is shown in Figure 4a and Figure 4b. In both cases, the axial deflections of spring element 47 are shown in a greatly exaggerated manner to clearly illustrate the changes. Figure 4a illustrates the force and position relationships of a first operating state, in which a supporting force  $F_4$   $F_2$  between spring-support surface 35 and spring element 47

acts on the radially inner side of spring element 47. An equal force  $F_1$  acts between outer ring 44 and, in this case, spacer 56. Line  $l_0$  was selected as the reference line, which, in this case, lies in the plane of osculation between spring element 47 and spring-support surface 35. The axial height of spring element 47 between the side of spring element 47 facing hub projection 30 and the plane of osculation is  $d_1$ . The further extreme case in Figure 4b shows a spring element 47 deflected fully to the right past the flat position, whereby the side of spring element 47 facing hub projection 30 - the contact surface between outer ring 44 and spacer 56 - is now on the other side of flat position  $l_0$ , i.e.,  $d_2$ . It is also clearly shown that force  $F_2$ , which is now acting between outer ring 44 and spring element 47, and between spring element 47 and spring-support surface 35 is nearly as great as force  $F_1$  that was applied previously.